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REPORTS

—OF THE—

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

—AND—

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

—OF THE—

TOWN OF ANDOVER,

—FOR THE—

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

FRANKLIN FALLS, N. H.:
MERRIMACK JOURNAL PRINTING OFFICE.
1878.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
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Report of George J. Swett, Treasurer
From March 1, 1877 to March 21, 1877.

Mar.	1,	Cash on hand at time of settlement,	$1321 57
	9,	Received of J. W. Kenniston, tax of 1876,	100 00
	13,	" " Frank White, aid rendered within ninety days	3 00
			$1424 57

Paid Bills.

Paid—	
Nathan Woodbury, Jr. Auditor,	2 00
Joseph Weare, breaking roads,	24 33
Enos Sleeper, " "	90
A. J. Hall " "	6 28
C. W Cole, " " and labor on Cilley Hill road.	9 80
C. W. Cole, breaking roads,	12 15
" brick for sewer,	4 80
" school books,	1 30
" one sheep killed by dogs	3 00
John E. Babbitt, 11 sheep killed by dogs,	20 00
Marcy E. Kenniston, in full for keeping Mrs. Bartlett to March 8,	7 50
G. B. & F. K. Wheeler, for printing town reports,	18 00
" " S. S. Committee reports,	35 00
H. M. Busiel, board at Proctor House,	3 50
A. H. Proctor, for breaking Fellows road,	31 47

Mrs. M. A. Clay, 3 sheep killed by dogs,	8 00
" A. A. Stone " "	8 00
A. W. Baker, for keeping 5 tramps,	3 75
Benj. Merrill, for breaking roads,	3 20
Oliver Rodgers, Jr. " "	4 20
G. J. Swett, for services, use of team, car-fare and expenses after settlement	15 00
J. S. Thompson, for aid rendered Frank White by County within 90 days	3 00
E. Currier, Jr., for breaking roads,	6 00
Cash to John Graves, to balance,	1,193 39
	$1,424 57

G. J. SWETT, Treasurer.

RECEIPTS.

The Selectmen credit the Town as follows:

1877.		Received—	
Mar.	21	In cash of G. J. Swett,	$1193 39
Apr.	12	J. W. Kenniston, collector for 1876,	14 10
		" in abatement,	6 16
		John Buswell, school money for District No. 5	4 70
		G. J. White, collector for 1877,	6,303 32
1878.			
Feb.	25	John Graves, collector for 1875,	30 00
		Clark Durgin, collector for 1874,	25 00
		State interest on bonds,	540 00
Nov.	16	John Proctor, interest on note,	119 70
Jan.	1	State savings bank tax,	1,005 60
		" railroad tax,	614 72
		" literary fund,	132 44
	5	Harrison Mathews, for old iron,	65
	12	County support of paupers,	262 98
	25	C. Durgin, in abatements, tax of 1874,	52 18
		John Graves, " " " 1875,	27 89
		Daniel Davis, cash on note,	8 70

George J. White, non-resident highway tax paid in labor,	25	58
George J. White, over-tax,	24	70
" abatements,	6	58
" interest on taxes,	2	00
" discount on taxes,	154	53
	$10,554	92

DISBURSEMENTS.

Current Expenses.

1877.		Paid—		
April	5	B. W. Sanborn & Co., books and blanks,	5	70
	12	J. W. Kenniston, abatement tax of 1876,	6	16
		" Collector's fees,	2	40
	16	F. L. Camberlin, one day as constable,	1	75
	20	J. F. Emerson, expenses while taking Inventory,	7	00
		" for board while making taxes,	18	00
		W. B. Durgin, expenses taking inventory,	5	95
May	28	A. H. Morrill, S. S. Com., in part for services,	11	00
		" for one book for indigent scholar,	1	00
Aug.	1	" " "		37
		" in part for services,	7	00
	4	G. J. White, collector non-resident highway, paid in labor,	25	58
Oct.	15	W. B. Durgin, in part for services as selectman,	30	00
Nov.	13	Ira Barney, for public watering place,	3	00
Jan.	14	H. W. Kilburn, one day as constable Mar. 13, '77,	2	00
		S. J. Clay, damage done wagon at Dyer's Bridge,	3	50
	21	John Graves, dinner and horse baiting, Mar. 19 '77		50
		" car fare from Andover Centre to West Andover,		20
		" board and cash paid while taking inventory,	4	75
		" car fare and expenses to pay county tax Aug. 15 '77, and settle with State Treas. Jan. 1 '78	5	00
	22	Quimby & Kenniston, for slates and stationery,	1	40

Feb.	2	J. A. Rowe, public watering place,	3 00
		Clark Durgin, making affidavits in pauper cases,	1 50
	12	D. L. Guernsey, for blanks and stationery,	1 60
		John Graves, car fare and expenses to Concord to get pauper money,	2 30
	16	J. W. Kenniston, damage to corn and crossing land while building Kenniston Bridge,	25 00
		Woodbury & Brown, printing notices,	50
		John R. Walker, for moving Lucy Bishop to depot,	1 00
		Alva H. Morrill, in full for services as S. S. Com.	32 00
		John M. Shirley, retainer fees to March 12, 1878,	25 00
		Clarence E. Carr, for affidavits in pauper cases,	3 50
	25	John Graves, in abatements, tax of 1875,	27 89
		J. W. Kenniston, making deeds to purchasers and returns to town clerk,	2 75
		C. Durgin, for public watering trough,	3 00
		" in abatement, tax of 1874,	52 18
		W. H. Tucker, for seven guide posts,	4 00
		A. C. Graves, for twenty guide boards,	25 00
		" " putting up guide posts and boards, thirty-five hours,	4 14
		A. C. Graves, use of team same time,	3 17
		George J. White, abatements and overtax,	31 28
		" discount on taxes,	154 53
		" Collector's fees,	103 59
		" Constable fees,	2 00
		" blank notices, receipts and expense,	9 38
		John S. Thompson, use of hall March 13, 1877,	25 00
		John Graves, treasurer's fees,	25 00
		" postage,	37
		" use of team,	25 00
		" services as selectman,	98 00
Feb.	25	W. B. Durgin, stationery and postage,	66
		" car fare,	1 80
		" use of team,	6 25
		" in full for services as selectman to date,	41 00

		John F. Emerson, horse hire and car fare,	13 05
		" stationery and postage,	1 20
		" board and horse keeping,	14 61
		" services from Feb. 26, 1877 to Feb. 26, 1878, in full,	78 07
		George H. Morrill, services as town clerk to date,	49 87
			$1040 95

OLD BILLS.

1877.		Paid—	
Sept.	12	O. R. Cornor for J. G. Bailey, breaking roads,	2 40
Nov.	7	H. L. M. Clark, damage to wagon, Oct. 14, 1876, near A. J. Hale's house,	2 50
Dec.	13	W. H. Weare, 1 sheep killed by dogs,	2 00
	26	Calvin Compbell, overwork on highway in 1876,	1 00
1878.			
Jan.	2	J. P. Carr, overtax in 1876,	1 76
Feb.	16	John P. Bean, " 1874,	1 00
	25	C. W. Cole, breaking roads, 1876–77,	3 60
		C. W. Bartlett " " 1876,	4 80
		J. S. Thompson, for snowing bridge, winter 1876–77,	5 00
		O. E. Eastman, breaking roads, winter '76–77,	19 87
		" for W. D. Tuttle, breaking roads, 1876–77,	21 59
			$65 52

BOUNTIES.

1877.		Paid—	
Sept.	24	W. H. Tucker, bounty on 1 hawk,	20
		I. N. Downs, " "	20
Dec.	1	C. C. French, " 1 fox,	50
1878.			
Jan.	7	J. P. Hazelton, " "	50
			$1 40

County Paupers.

1877.	Paid—		
April	2	A. W. Baker for keeping Geo. W. Smith 10 days,	10 48
	9	Eliza J. Tucker, taking care of James Davis,	5 00
	14	H. Elkins, for keeping Hannah Kimball,	20 00
		H. A. Weymouth, medical aid to Geo. Smith,	7 50
	27	Green Greeley, for keeping Miriam Stevens,	12 00
May	14	Mary E. Keniston, for keeping Mrs. Bartlett,	16 00
	28	H. A. Weymouth, medical aid to D. Johnson,	14 42
		" " J. Davis,	7 75
July	2	Mary E. Kenniston, for keeping Fanny Bartlett, to July 2, 1877,	9 00
	19	Green Greeley, for keeping Miriam Stevens,	12 00
Aug.	22	H. Elkins, " Hannah Kimball,	20 00
Nov.	7	Ruth White, " Aaron White,	10 00
	10	Peter Sanborn, " James Davis,	7 50
Dec.	25	H. Elkins, " Hannah Kimball,	12 00
1878.			
Jan.	21	Quimby & Keniston, goods for George Smith,	1 50
		" " " Mrs. Bartlett,	1 70
		" " " T. R. Colby,	16 00
		John Graves, for 21 1-2 lbs. pork, "	2 62
	31	Green Greeley, for keeping Miriam Stevens,	28 00
Feb.	1	C. G. Pevare, goods for Aaron White,	20 56
		Ruth White, for keeping " "	21 44
	2	Clark Durgin, goods J. Davis,	1 21
	9	J. R. Walker for keeping Lucy Bishop,	8 00
			$264 68

Town Paupers.

1878.			
Jan.	22	Quimby & Kenniston, goods for Mrs. Searle,	5 06
		" " " " H. A. Colby's children,	1 56
			$6 62

Tramps.

1877			
Mar.	21	A. W. Baker, for keeping tramps,	6 00
		" " " 6 "	4 50
Oct.	29	John C. Morrison, for keeping tramps to date,	9 50
Feb.	21	M. J. Leavenworth " " 44 " " "	22 00
	23	W. B. Durgin, " " 12 " " "	6 00
		J. F. Emerson, aid to " " "	5 10
	25	C. Durgin, for keeping 17 tramps,	9 60
		J. S. Thompson, for aid to tramps,	3 75
		Ed. Planter, for keeping tramps,	75
			867 20

Extra Highway.

1877.		Paid—	
Mar.	23	G. W. Mitchell, 5 hours work on road,	75
Apr.	2	C. W. Stone, breaking roads 30 hours,	4 50
	14	F. G. Hersey, " Dist. No. 11	9 94
		G. W. Mitchell, "	2 25
	16	F. L. Chamberlin, work on bridge,	50
		Michael Lordon, breaking roads,	5 70
	23	H. W. Kilburn, "	9 48
May	2	H. P. Sullivan, "	4 95
	25	C. J. White, work on road and snowing bridge,	3 50
		" for E. Shaw, breaking new road,	3 00
	28	D. Downs, work on road and culvert, March 20–27	2 75
Apr.	14	" for building temporary bridge,	36 50
	21	" loading "	1 00
May	28	" work on Mompy Hill road,	60 50
	31	S. Morey, for work on road and bridge	8 50
June	1	J. H. Morrison, " "	12 00
	30	M. T. Brown " "	18 65
		" for J. R. Walker, work on road	2 56
July	27	J. G. Bailey, for work on Cornor Hill road,	4 12

Aug.	9	H. I. Sullivan, for work on road, powder and fuse,	16 29
	11	Michael Lordon, "	5 50
	24	G. H. Clark, putting up posts and rails near H. A. Martin's house,	9 38
Sept.	7	C. H. Hilton, for work on road,	26 80
	18	N. J. Bachelder, 5 stringers for Tilton brook bridge, 6.25, powder and fuse, 40,	6 65
		Sanborn Shaw, work on new road,	5 50
	26	W. A. Sleeper, work on bridge near Mrs. Fifield's	6 49
		" lumber for the same,	2 60
Oct.	2	" 223 ft. plank,	2 33
	6	71 hours work on road,	8 87
	24	C. C. Moulton, work on old bridge,	75
Nov.	29	D. Downs, building temporary fence and furnishing lumber near Keniston bridge,	7 00
		D. Downs, for cutting bushes on middle road,	14 00
		" work on Mompy Hill road,	9 50
Dec.	11	J. W. Trumbull, for work on road,	2 50
		J. D. Philbrick, " "	3 15
	15	F. G. Hersey, 15 days "	18 75
Jan.	5–18	Michael Lordon, "	2 82
		Albert R. Hamilton, for three days work on Seavey bridge 6.00, spikes .15, lumber .36	6 51
	9	F. A. Wood, 2074 feet of lumber,	20 74
		" 70 rail posts,	8 75
		Baker, Carr & Co., for 40 bolts for railing	2 00
		W. H. Weare, breaking roads March –77	4 50
		J. W. Fellows, 12 stone posts,	6 00
		M. J. Leavenworth, 20 stone posts,	10 00
		" for drawing same from Salisbury,	6 00
		" " stone posts from Mrs. Fellows' to A. H. Martin's,	1 00
	18	S. M. Ellis, 1862 feet of bridge plank,	18 62
	22	Quimby & Keniston, nails 1.05, spikes .50,	1 55
Feb.	4	W. J. Cilley, work on road,	10 00
	18	C. J. White, grading middle brook road,	5 50
		" snowing bridge,	1 75

	22	M. T. Brown, labor on highway,	46 59
		" for J. P. Prescott, "	2 57
		" J. E. Babbitt, 272 feet plank, 2.72, powder 50, 7 stringers 175,	4 97
		C. N. Emerson for work on road,	7 61
	23	C. H. Hilton " Philbrick road,	7 12
Feb.	23	Carr & Downs, railing near A. H. Marston's	4 92
			$516 73

School Tax.

1877. Paid—

E. A. Davis,	District No. 1,	52 75
John F. Emery,	" 2,	171 61
John C. Morrison,	" 3,	143 85
Gerry Morgan	" 4,	411 54
Charles Merrill,	" 5,	124 97
"	" for John Buswell,	4 70
W. H. Edmunds,	District No. 7,	175 85
C. W. White,	" 8,	125 14
S. J. Thompson,	" 9,	41 32
Elias Davis,	" 10,	341 54
Frank Hersey,	" 11,	41 37
Frank Austin,	" 12,	115 31
Henry Colby,	" 13,	73 60
		$1,823 55

School House Tax.

1877. Paid—

June	2	C. H. Merrill district No. 5,	15 00
Sept.	10	" " in full,	15 00
Nov.	16	R. C. Carr, " 4,	7 00 00
Dec.	12	Gerry Morgan, " 4,	300 00
1878.			
Jan.	5	Gerry Morgan, dist. No. 4,	86 00
			$1,116 00

Tramp Houses.

1877.	Paid—		
July	26	E. G. Chase, drawing lumber,	7 50
		" window frame,	1 00
Aug.	11	C. C. Woodward, painting,	8 70
	22	J. B. Wadleigh, work and materials,	41 90
	27	Prince Brothers, lumber,	57 32
	31	H. Gookin, "	41 76
Nov.	15	C. L. S. Leeds, painting,	9 00
Dec.	15	M. J. Leavenworth, drawing lumber,	6 00
		" window,	75
		" 4 quilts,	6 00
		" filling beds,	50
1878.			
Jan.	8	J. H. Brown, stove,	3 00
		" sheet iron,	80
		" stove pipe,	1 62
Feb.	2	C. G. Pevare, materials for building and furnishing,	8 81
	23	W. B. Durgin, work,	9 50
	25	Clark Durgin, furnishing materials,	4 86
		A. B. Durgin, 275 brick, $9 per M,	2 47
		C. W. Cole, materials for building and furnishing,	5 21
		Daniel M. Davis, work and material,	8 70
			225 40

State and County Tax.

1878.	Paid—		
Aug.	15	J. H. Rowell, county tax,	1260 94
1878.			
Jan.	1	Solon A. Carter, state tax,	1328 00
			$2588 94

Dog Tax.

1877.	Whole amount assessed,	$104 00
	Claimed as damages done by dogs.	$25 50

Kenniston Bridge.

1877. Paid—

June	11	Proctor Mills, for 2995 feet bridge plank,	32 95
May	21	G. B. & F. K. Wheeler, for printing posters,	2 00
Sept.	17	John Buswell, for stone work,	400 00
Nov.	16	R. C. Carr, for wood work,	190 00
		" for extra bolts and braces,	5 00
		H. P. Sullivan, for rubbling,	24 00
	29	D. Downs, for rubbling,	19 62
Dec.	15	John Buswell, for extra stone work not included in specification, grading, curb stone and railing,	100 00
		J. Trumbull, for rubbling,	4 50
Feb.	25	Carr & Downes, for 1500 feet bridge plank,	15 00
			$793 07

Recapitulation.

Whole amount received,		$10,554 92
Paid—		
Current expenses,	1,040 95	
Old bills,	65 52	
County paupers,	264 68	
Town "	6 62	
Transient " (tramps)	67 20	
School tax,	1,823 00	
School-house tax,	1,116 00	
State and County tax,	2,588 94	
Extra highway,	516 73	
Keniston bridge,	793 07	
Tramp houses,	225 40	
Bounties,	1 40	
	$8,510 06	
Cash on hand,	2,044 86	10,554 92

Due school district No. 3, school-house tax,	$200 00
" " " " 9, school money,	85 10
	$285 10

ASSETS.

Due from W. S. Marston on note,	$165 99
" " John Proctor "	2,070 47
" " State bonds and interest,	9,090 00
" " Clark Durgin, tax of 1874,	69 82
" " Daniel M. Davis on note,	10 46
" " John Graves, tax of 1875	63 90
" " George J. White, tax of 1877,	121 52
Cash on hand,	2,044 86
	$13,637 02

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN F. EMERSON,
JOHN GRAVES,
WALTER B. DURGIN.
} Selectmen of Andover.

I have examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen from March 1, 1877, to March 1, 1878, and find the receipts to be $10,554.92, and the amount paid out to be $8,510.06, leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of $2,044.86, and in the hands of the Collector of $121.52. All of which is properly vouched and correctly cast.

HENRY M. BOSWORTH, Auditor.

ANDOVER, March 1, 1878.

The State tax for 1878 will be	$1,328 00
The County tax for 1878 will be	1,662 22

REPORT

—OF THE—

Superintending School Committee.

In presenting to the citizens of this town the report of its schools, I can commence no better than by congratulating you on account of the success of the schools generally for the past year. I would not intimate by this that the schools have reached perfection, but that, on the whole, they have been a success.

There are several reasons that have tended to produce this result, prominent among which have been, (1) a larger appropriation for schools, and (2) the employment of so many teachers of experience.

The increased school revenue has been perceptibly manifest in the lengthened schools, and has given an average of 22 1-2 weeks of school in the various districts against an average of 19 1-3 weeks in the same districts for the previous year.

The second fact is apparent when I say that only four of the twenty teachers for the year have taught their first schools the present year, while some of them have been teachers of several years experience. Several of the new teachers have shown unmistakably that they are "apt to teach" by the successful manner in which they have managed their schools.

It may be truly said of teachers as well as of poets, that they are "born, not made," for with all possible qualifications, unless there be the necessary aptitude to teach, one cannot be a successful teacher.. One thing, however, is an obstacle, in my opinion, to the best success of our schools, and that is

WANT OF PERMANENCY

in school officers. It is thought, if we are to judge by practise, that there should be rotation in school officers nearly or quite every year. For this I can see no adequate reason. Certainly one can do the work of School Committee better after a year's experience than without any. I have not taken pains to trace the matter further back than the last four years, for finding four different Superintending School Committees in that time is a sufficient illustration of my remark. Perhaps I can speak more freely upon this subject than any of my recent predecessors, as no one can accuse me of seeking a continuance of this office for myself.

No one feels that liberty to make changes for one year when his successor may return to the previous ways the next year, for there is no prospect that any measure proposed will have a fair trial ere it is superseded by some other experiment.

When a competent person is found, such a one should be continued in office at least three years, that he may have time to test some of the measures proposed for improving the schools. I have not felt at liberty to make any suggestions, because there was no prospect of any suggestion's being tried more than one year.

The same reasoning may be applied to the Prudential Committees. There are men in nearly or quite every district better qualified than others to attend to such duties, and these should be the ones chosen, even if such choice be for several consecutive years. It may be well to remind

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES

that they have duties which are prescribed by law very clearly, but which are generally wholly disregarded. With one or two possible (though not probable) exceptions, that requirement of Section 15, Chapter 81 of the General Statutes, which says: "No teacher shall receive payment for his services until such certificate (that is, given by the Superintending Committee of return of register) is produced and delivered to the Prudential Committee," has been *utterly ignored*, whether from ignorance, or for what cause, I cannot say. If this is a matter of sufficient importance to receive legislative enactment, surely it is of importance that the law be respected by the proper parties.

Another matter which several have forgotten, and which in two or three instances prevented my visiting schools as required to do, is, notifying the Superintending Committee of the beginning and close of the school, in reasonable season. This is too closely related to the good of the schools to be thus neglected. Something should also be said of our

SCHOOL HOUSES.

I regret that I can not give as good a report upon this subject as I would like, but though facts be stubborn things, we can not evade them.

We have only two really good school houses in town, the ones at the Center, and Cilleysville. The one in Dist. No. 7 has been made more comfortable the past year, which, with those in Nos. 1, 5, 8 and 10 may be classed as passable, while all the others are very poor, two of them, at least, being entirely unfit for school use.

As a whole, our school houses are far behind the times, and much of the money expended for schools, in several districts, will continue to be wasted, so long as children are taught in such miserable buildings.

While an advance was made last year, raising more money for school purposes, may we not hope a still further step will be taken the present year, the erection of new school houses?

While there is an urgent demand for so many new school houses, it may be well to make the suggestion again, made at least once before, of a

CONSOLIDATION OF DISTRICTS.

I have spoken to several about this matter, advising the same course that Rev. Mr. Moody counseled in his report, without a knowledge of his recommendation until a few days since.

We have too many school districts. There ought not to be more than five or six districts in the town, instead of the twelve that now exist. Could Nos. 1, 2 and 3 unite and enlarge the school-house at Cilleysville, that school could then be graded, and all parties enjoy better facilities for the instruction of their children.

The only inconvenience, worthy of consideration, opposed to such a measure, is the distance some would be obliged to travel. Nearly or quite half of the West Andover district would be inconvenienced no more in going to Cilleysville than in going to their school-house, while a graded school, with a better classification and a better building, would amply compensate for the longer distance of the rest.

As to expense, it would cost no more to build the necessary addition to the Cilleysville school-house than to build a new one at West Andover, which must be done erelong. Of course the expense of the enlargement of the school-house should be mainly borne by the other districts. Could the experiment be tried a few terms, I feel assured it would be preferred to the present arrangement.

Taunton Hill should unite with Boston Hill district, build a new school-house midway between the two, and have five months of graded school. There will be an increase of expense for two or three years, but it would be better than an investment at eight per cent. interest.

The three districts below East Andover should either be consolidated into one, and build a new school-house within half a mile of the one in District No. 12 (neither house is fit for its purpose), or else unite with East Andover; in either of which cases the advantages would be increased over the present ones. The latter proposition would probably be better, as it would give a larger and better classified school for all.

District No. 6 could be as well served as now, either by joining the consolidation, or being divided among the adjoining districts.

With some such arrangement as this proposed the same amount of money would give more weeks of school, and the kind of school must necessarily be improved. The expense for rooms would be little if any more than the amount that ought to be expended immediately, unless parents are willing that their children should be taught in such poor buildings wholly without adaptation to their purpose.

Though there may seem to be obstacles in the way of this plan, yet I earnestly ask you to consider the subject, and as earnestly hope that this or some better plan may be erelong adopted.

APPARATUS.

This term covers all the furnishing of the school room designed to illustrate the truths and teachings of the text book. In all respects save one, our schools are very deficient in these means of instruction.

All our school-rooms are supplied with black-boards, such as they are, but only one building (No. 4) has a really good supply. The other districts should expend a dollar or so apiece, for liquid slating, and then their blackboards would be a hundred per cent. better. As they are now, some of them are almost useless.

Eight schools have a globe, two districts have wall maps, and two schools have a dictionary.

While I do not expect to find all the apparatus of the High school or the City schools, yet I think there ought to be an improvement in one respect at least, that of dictionaries. Every school ought to have either Webster's or Worcester's quarto dictionary, and eight or nine dollars could not be better spent than in supplying these necessities.

Another subject for the consideration of parents is,

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE.

This is a serious obstacle in the way of the scholar's improvement. My experience as a teacher in our common schools, as well as that in Proctor Academy, has proved this irregularity of attendance to be one of the greatest bars in the way of progress. The testimony of teachers is at one on this point. It is largely the fault of parents, I think. They allow their children to remain at home for trivial causes, and sometimes detain them for work which they ought not to ask of them except in cases of undoubted necessity. The parent should be willing to endure some, yes, considerable inconvenience, to enable his children to attend school, and acquire an education, as this is one of the possessions that changing fortune cannot destroy. Then, parents, be sure that your children are at school every day of term time, except in cases of sickness, or for some very necessary reason.

TEXT BOOKS.

The only changes made in text books have been the adoption of Quackenbos's Language Lessons, which seems to me to be a very excellent little work for its purpose; and the introduction of Anderson's History of the United States into two schools. Were I to adopt one now, I should adopt Quackenbos's New School History as preferable to all others for school use.

I do not believe in changing books often. It is often difficult to decide which book has the most excellencies and the least defects, and I prefer using those which have some defects rather than to be continually changing. A good teacher can instruct his pupils even though the book be sometimes faulty; while oftener the fault attributed to the book is the fault of the teacher.

There should be a sifting of books to some extent, as in some instances two or three different books are found in the same school upon one subject, when there should be only one. In some instances, rather than subject parents to expense, I have suggested to the teacher the assigning of lessons by topics, allowing each scholar to use his own book.

It would be a matter of convenience and economy if the text books in the higher branches should conform to those used in Proctor Academy, while it is also reasonable to suppose that those in charge of that institution will strive to have only worthy books. The books now in use, with but two or three exceptions, are well adapted to their purpose and will remain so for some time to come.

SPECIAL REPORT.

No. 1. Kearsarge.

This is a small school and, except two or three, consists of small scholars. The summer term was taught by Miss Lillian A. Fuller, a young teacher of only a few weeks' experience. She tried to do well, and, I think, succeeded. With a few more terms of academical instruction and experience in teaching, she will be ready for a more important place. The winter term was begun by the same teacher, but finished by Miss May E. Thompson, also a young teacher, but one, who even with a small school tried to do her duty.

No. 2. Cilleysville.

In no way could this district have shown its good sense than, as it did, by retaining the teacher of the last year, Mrs. Jennie P. T. White. This school is one of the best in town, only one being its rival, and it is difficult, all things considered, to decide which is the best. Mrs. White has had about twelve years' experience in teaching and understands well her work. Her best recommendation will be found in a visit of a few hours to her school.

She taught both terms, and both were very successful. The scholars are quick and correct almost invariably in their answers, and show a thorough mastery of the subject in hand. The examinations of nearly all classes were highly satisfactory, while the history class deserves special mention. Both teacher and pupils deserve praise for their work.

No. 3. West Andover.

The summer term was taught by Miss Edna H. Emerson, a teacher of considerable experience. Miss Emerson worked diligently and successfully, as was shown by the progress made in the various studies pursued. The dilapidated old school-house is enough to cause discouragement to both teacher and pupils, but despite this obstacle some advance was made.

The fall term was taught by Miss Nannie A. Kenniston, who, like Miss Emerson, had taught in this district before. The term was pleasant and profitable, the scholars seconding heartily the efforts of the teacher for their improvement and she diligently laboring for their good.

No. 4. Centre.

HIGHER DEPARTMENT.

The school year was divided into three terms, probably because the summer term began so late, owing to the prevalence of the measles during the spring. It would have been better had there been but two, I think. The first two terms were taught by Miss Lura M. Gilfillan, who had charge of the school the previous year. Her work was done to better advantage because of her previous year's experience. The school was well governed and well taught.

Miss Lizzie C. Bachelder began the third term but was obliged to give it up on account of sickness, much to the regret of all. Miss Roxie B. Shepard finished the term and had a good school. Both teachers discharged their duties conscientiously. Good progress was made by most of the classes, and if any scholars did not make much improvement, it was not the fault of the teachers.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

The first two terms were taught by Miss Lizzie C. Bachelder, who has had charge of the school two terms before. Both terms were successful, and I am inclined to think that Miss Bachelder would make any school a success.

The third term was taught by Miss Bertha S. Bachelder, who made her first attempt at teaching, but she did her work as naturally as though she had taught for months. To succeed as a teacher of a primary school is certainly an omen or prophecy of success in schools of higher grade. The school during the year was as studious as could be expected of that class of scholars.

No. 5. Beech Hill.

The summer term was tauget by Miss Sarah A. Pettengill, who has had considerable experience as a teacher. She tried to do her duty well, and a reasonable degree of success was the result.

The fall term was taught by Miss Edna H. Emerson, already mentioned as teacher of Dist. No. 3. The school was a success. She labored earnestly and probably worked too hard, as she was prostrated by sickness the last day of school and has only partially recovered yet.

No. 7. Taunton Hill.

This school had three terms, all of which were taught by Miss Nellie E. Fifield. With three or four exceptions the scholars are small, but there should have been a larger attendance the last term, as the weather was very favorable. More progress was made during the first than during the subsequent terms, because the attendance was more regular. Some of the smaller reading classes made very commendable progress.

No. 8. Boston Hill.

Both terms were taught by Miss Carrie E. Tucker. I found the school, each term, orderly and studious, and there was manifest advancement, though the last term closed without my knowledge of it, and of course I failed to visit it at that time.

Miss Tucker showed diligence and faithfulness.

No. 10. East Andover.

HIGHER DEPARTMENT.

The summer term was taught by Miss M. E. Marston, a teacher of large experience. As might be expected, the school was quiet, orderly and studious. The school is quite well classified, which greatly facilitates the teacher's work. This school is more advanced than any other, save one, whose rival it is. The progress made in the various studies was quite satisfactory.

The fall term was under the instruction of Miss Ida A. Edmunds, who fully kept up the reputation of the previous term, as she is a teacher of many terms' experience. Work seemed to be the watchword of teacher and pupils, and the inevitable result, progress, followed.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

The first term was taught by Miss Fannie Wadleigh. She had taught in this district before, which helped her to work more successfully this term. The scholars are eager for instruction, and still more eager to tell what they know, and sometimes they get very enthusiastic in their recitations.

In all the branches taught, good progress was made, which speaks well for the teacher.

The second term was taught by Miss Mary A. Putney, who entered the rank of teachers this term. She showed herself, however, as no novice in the work, but made her school a success.

The citizens of that district have reason to congratulate themselves that they have been so fortunate in their teachers the past year.

No. 11. Tucker Mountain.

But one term was taught in this district, and the teacher was Cassius M. Clay, this being his first term. Only one of the seven scholars was small, and they all went to school to learn.

The school was well classed, and the scholars made good advancement, partly because of their own industry and partly because of their teacher's labor.

Several of these scholars ought to have better advantages, as they would use them well.

No. 12. Back Road.

The summer term was taught by Miss Annie A. Shaw, a teacher of experience, who did her best to make the school a success, and succeeded as well as any one could, as it is mostly composed of small scholars.

The fall term was taught by Mr. Henry L. Emery. This was his first school, but he labored faithfully, and had reasonable success.

No. 13. Emery Road.

There was but one term for the year, and that was taught by Miss M. Lucina Robie.

The school is small, but the teacher labored hard, and good progress was made by the few who were in attendance.

Conclusion.

I have devoted as much time to supervision of the schools as other duties have permitted.

The amount of money raised for school purposes has been $1662, which, with the Literary Fund and railroad tax, makes the total amount of school money $1850.50.

This amount should be increased rather than diminished.

ALVA H. MORRILL.
Superintending School Committee.

No. of District.	Money raised by Law.	Railroad Tax and Literary Fund.	Length of Summer Schools.	Length of Fall Schools.	Scholars Summer Term.	Scholars Fall Term.	Scholars in Reading, Summer Term.	Scholars in Reading, Fall Term.	Scholars in Spelling, Summer Term.	Scholars, in Spelling, Fall Term.	Scholars in Penmanship, Summer Term.	Scholars in Penmanship, Fall Term.	Scholars in Arithmetic, Summer Term.	Scholars in Arithmetic, Fall Term.	Scholars in Geography, Summer Term.	Scholars in Geography, Fall Term.	Scholars in Grammar, Summer Term.	Scholars in Grammar, Fall Term.	Scholars in History, Summer Term.	Scholars in History, Fall Term.	Scholars in Other Studies, Summer Term.	Scholars in Other Studies, Fall Term.	Scholar between 5 and 15 not attending School.
No. 1	$46 25	$6 50	10	10	6	8	6	8	6	8	3	5	4	7	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
2	151 11	20 50	10	11	27	30	27	29	23	25	14	17	16	17	10	11	7	5	4	2	0	2	
3	128 85	15 00	10	10	22	22	22	21	22	13	9	8	11	13	9	11	2	2	0	1	0	0	
4 H																							
4 P	389 54	42 00	8	16	27	27	27	27	25	27	24	18	25	25	23	22	8	12	8	1	0	0	
5	105 97	19 00	8	11	20	23	20	20	20	23	14	00	16	00	10	00	5	00	0	0	1	0	
7	157 85	18 00	10	17 1-2	17	15	17	14	16	15	7	5	11	10	7	5	4	3	1	0	2	2	
8	108 64	16 50	8	9	22	25	22	24	22	24	18	19	17	21	7	8	2	1	1	1	0	0	
10 H																							
10 P	308 04	33 50	10	13	25	28	25	28	25	28	22	23	25	28	19	22	7	22	0	0	1	3	
11	38 37	3 00	00	8	00	7	00	7	00	7	00	4	00	6	00	1	0	5	0	0	7	0	
12	106 81	8 50	08	11 4-5	17	17	17	17	17	17	15	13	12	13	6	4	4	4	0	0	0	4	
13	69 60	4 00	00	12	00	7	00	7	00	5	00	3	00	4	00	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Nine Scholars in All.																						